

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF OCT 28, 2015**

The Board convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Board members David Madore, Jeanne E. Stewart, and Tom Mielke present.

9:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Madore read consent agenda item #1.

ACTION: Moved by Mielke to **APPROVE** minutes for September 23, 2015. Stewart seconded the motion. Board members Madore, Stewart and Mielke voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

PUBLIC HEALTH IN ACTION

Dr. Alan Melnick, MD,MPH, CPH, Public Health Director, Health Officer provided some background. Chuck Harman, Public Health introduced Eric Lambert, Sean Hawes, and Brigette Bashaw.

- Homeowner's Septic Workshop

Lambert presented on the Small Acreage Program which provides residents with knowledge, resources and the skills necessary to manage their land and animals in ways that will help keep water clean and protect natural resources. In partnership with Washington State University Extension, the program teaches land management behavior that positively impacts clean water and increases knowledge. This strategy includes teaching property owners how to inspect their own septic systems and reduce chemical usage. Further discussion ensued about septic systems.

Hawes joined the discussion and stated Clark County Public Health implements positive changes through outreach and education over water resources. He spoke further about the workshop and the importance of septic operation and maintenance. He stated there is a small cost for the training, but in the long run it's more efficient and cheaper than replacing an on-site Septic System (OSS) or connecting to city sewer. He further explained the benefits of the workshop. He stated there are a total of 34,934 active septic systems in Clark County with a distribution of gravity 80.1%, pressure distribution 8.7%, advanced 11.0% and food establishment 0.2% systems. He stated professional support is available through the Technical Advisory Committee which offers educational workshops. These workshops raise public knowledge and awareness for routine operation and maintenance inspections and increase the public awareness of services provided by professionals.

Bashaw spoke about well construction standards to protect drinking water. She provided ways to protect well water for drinking. Further discussion ensued. She stated Clark County Public Health regulations are a last resort with education being the main focus in empowering the homeowners.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- PeaceHealth Southwest (PHSW) Resident Partnership

Melnick presented PHSW has a family residency program and Public Health has been given a great opportunity to partner with them. Through this partnership they can expand the residents' knowledge and understanding of public health and its impact on the health of the community. In October, they met with 20 residents and medical students to provide an overview of public health. Staff covered several topics including: the function of Public Health, mandated notifiable health conditions, how epidemiological data is developed and utilized to identify and mitigate disease outbreaks and epidemics, how responses to public health emergencies are coordinated and resources are allocated in the community, chronic disease prevention and vaccination/immunization programs. Further discussion ensued.

- Communicable Disease Update

Pertussis is still considered an outbreak. However, there has been no significant change in the numbers since the last Board of Health (BOH) presentation.

Flu season comes this time of the year with closer contact and more people staying indoors. This year's vaccine was made in February. The component is similar to the virus floating around the world and hopefully will have a better match this year. Vaccination is still the best way to prevent the flu.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Stewart thanked the staff for the septic / well presentation.

Mielke spoke highly of the education provided regarding the septic systems. Mielke inquired about recent cold outbreaks. Melnick responded.

Madore spoke about the wealth of information being provided.

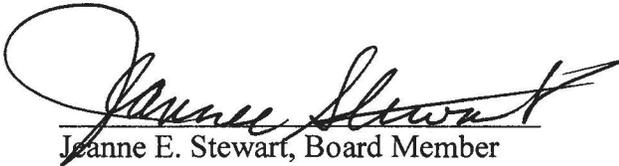
Hearing adjourned

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BOARD OF HEALTH



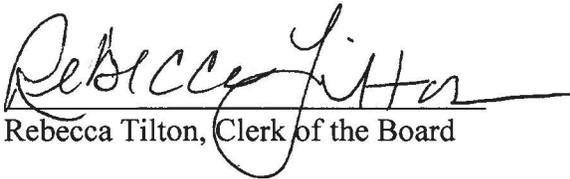
David Madore, Board Member



Jeanne E. Stewart, Board Member

Tom Mielke, Board Member

ATTEST:



Rebecca Tilton, Clerk of the Board

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Please Note: The Board of Commissioners' minutes are action minutes. Digital recordings can be provided upon request. In addition, the Commissioners' hearings are broadcast live on CVTV, cable channels 21 and 23, and are also videotaped and repeated several times (www.cvtv.org)